



THE BECERRA BULLETIN

News and Views from Washington to Los Angeles

September 28, 2007, WASHINGTON, D.C. – In a continued effort to bring news and relevant information about our federal government back to his home district in Los Angeles, Representative Xavier Becerra (CA-31), Assistant to the Speaker of the House and the only congressional member from Southern California who sits on the House Ways and Means Committee, brings you “The Becerra Bulletin,” an e-newsletter filled with facts and information meant to stimulate thought and discussion about American economic policy and a host of other issues.

BY THE NUMBERS

CHOICES MATTER: MEETING AMERICA'S PRIORITIES IN THE NEW CONGRESS

From 2001 to 2006, President Bush and the Republican-led Congress presided over the most fiscally irresponsible period in American history, committing to radically different priorities than those shared by the American people. We went from having a \$5.6 trillion, 10 year surplus under the Clinton administration to a \$3 trillion, 10 year deficit, as America's national debt skyrocketed. Eighty percent of that debt is borrowed from foreign creditors like China, making our fiscal integrity a matter of national security. The 110th Congress, led by a Democratic majority, is taking America in a better direction by restoring fiscal sanity and ensuring taxpayer dollars are spent wisely with pay-as-you-go budget discipline and a budget that balances in five years. This means making tough choices and setting priorities. Instead of giving massive tax breaks to the wealthy, this Congress is targeting investments in veterans' care, education, health care, and student aid, while reducing taxes for the middle class. Here's a look at who stands to benefit from the legislation passed by this Congress:

13,000,000.....	Americans receiving a pay raise thanks to a new minimum wage
10,000,000.....	Uninsured children of working families given health coverage
6,800,000.....	Students who will benefit from a reduced interest rate on student loans
5,800,000.....	Veterans benefiting from largest increase in VA funding in history
5,500,000.....	Students who will benefit from the increased value of the Pell Grant
1,000,000.....	More Americans with access to community health centers
12,000.....	Additional police officers to combat violent crime
9,200.....	Additional school teachers to educate our nation's children
3,000.....	More border patrol agents than last year

SHORT TAKES — LOS ANGELES

COFFEE WITH YOUR CONGRESSMAN IN HOLLYWOOD & GLASSELL PARK

Rep. Becerra continued his series of town hall meetings around the 31st District over the past month, meeting with several hundred district residents for coffee and conversation at two recent “Coffee With Your Congressman” events. The first “Coffee” took place at Frank del Olmo Elementary School in East Hollywood on Saturday, August 25, where residents brought up a wide range of topics including immigration, healthcare for children, and the war in Iraq. The second meeting took place at the Glassell Park Community Center on Saturday, September 15, where many attendees expressed support for impeaching President Bush, and discussed federal funds for cancer research, the recent minimum wage increase, and education among many other issues. Look in your In Box and your mail box for your invitation to the next Coffee With Your Congressman.

SHORT TAKES — WASHINGTON, D.C.

REP. BECERRA INTRODUCES LEGISLATION TO TACKLE WATER SCARCITY

As the American southwest suffers through the driest year on record, Reps. Becerra and Jon Porter (NV-3) introduced legislation in the House of Representatives in August to encourage investment in our nation's water infrastructure. Rapid population growth and heightened per-person water use are straining our nation's available water supplies and processing facilities. H.R. 3452, the Clean Renewable Water Supply Bond Act, tackles this problem by making available clean water supply bonds that local municipalities can use, interest-free, to finance innovative, renewable water projects and facilities. These investments include water-recycling plants, projects to clean up and use impaired groundwater, and both seawater and brackish groundwater desalination projects. “This legislation encourages the marriage of entrepreneurial thinking and public investment,” Rep. Becerra said. “Long term, the bill will save money while also helping stave off potential water access problems that will become our reality if we do nothing.”

Representative Xavier Becerra, 31st Congressional District, California**Assistant to the Speaker of the House of Representatives**

Committee on Ways and Means

Subcommittee on Oversight, Subcommittee on Health & Subcommittee on Social Security

Committee on Budget

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